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In memoriam

Reuben Wilkins Ropes...

New York

[1890]

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Mrs. A. C. A.
1872/6

In Memoriam

Reuben Wilkins Ropes

1813—1890

"A beautiful life ends not in death"



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"A beautiful life ends not in death"

Frederick A. Stokes Company,
Publishers,
182 Fifth Avenue,
New York.

13 Sept 1915 MS



Funeral Services of
Mr. Reuben W. Ropes,

August 1, 1890.

Hymn.

" Beyond the smiling and the weeping,
I shall be soon ;
Beyond the waking and the sleeping,
Beyond the sowing and the reaping,
I shall be soon .

Beyond the blooming and the fading,
I shall be soon ;
Beyond the shining and the shading,
Beyond the hoping and the dreading,
I shall be soon .

Beyond the parting and the meeting,
I shall be soon ;
Beyond the farewell and the greeting,
Beyond the pulse's fever beating,
I shall be soon .

CHORUS—Love, rest and home !
Sweet, sweet home !
Lord, tarry not, but come ."

Scripture Reading by Rev. Charles
Cutbbert Hall.

MR. HALL : The psalms which I now read, holding in my hands the Book of Psalms, which our dear friend loved to hold, are chosen as being especially dear to him and his children and associated with their lives :

THE heavens declare the glory of God ; and the firmament showeth his handiwork.

2. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge.

3. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.

4. Their line is gone out through the earth and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun.

5. Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.

6. His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it : and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

7. The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul : the testimony of the Lord is sure making wise the simple.

8. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart ; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes :

9. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever : the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

10. More to be desired are they than gold,

yea, than much fine gold ; sweeter also than honey, and the honey-comb.

11. Moreover by them is thy servant warned : and in keeping of them there is great reward.

12. Who can understand his errors ? Cleanse thou me from secret faults.

13. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins ; let them not have dominion over me : then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

14. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer,

THE Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

2. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures : he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3. He restoreth my soul : he leadeth me into the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil : for thou art with me ; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

5. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies : thou anointest my head with oil ; my cup runneth over.

6. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life ; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

LORD thou hath been our dwelling place in all generations.

2. Before the mountains were brought forth, or even thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.

3. Thou hast turned man to destruction ; and sayest, return, ye children of men.

4. For a thousand years in thy sight are but

as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

5. Thou carriest them away as with a flood ; they are as a sleep : in the morning they are like grass which groweth up.

6. In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up ; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth.

7. For we are consumed by thine anger, and by thy wrath are we troubled.

8. Thou hath set our iniquities before thee : our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.

9. For all our days are passed away in thy wrath ; we spend our years, as a tale that is told.

10. The days of our years are threescore years and ten ; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow ; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

11. Who knoweth the power of thine anger ? Even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath.

12. So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

13. Return, O Lord, how long ? and let it repent thee concerning thy servants.

14. O satisfy us early with thy mercy ; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

15. Make us glad according to the days wherein thou hast afflicted us, and the years wherein we have seen evil.

16. Let thy work appear upon thy servants, and thy glory unto their children.

17. And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us : and establish thou the work of our hands upon us ; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.

We shall now be addressed by the Rev. Mr.

Halliday, for so many years closely associated with Mr. Ropes in the councils and works of Plymouth Church.

REV. MR. HALLIDAY : Mr. Ropes needs no eulogy of mine, and I shall attempt none. For nearly five and twenty years I knew Mr. Ropes, acquiring a very familiar intimacy with him. When I remember his peculiarities I wonder that I should have learned him so thoroughly as I did. I think very few people knew Mr. Ropes ; they knew a great deal of him, but hardly knew Reuben W. Ropes, the warm-hearted, earnest, Christian man. All of you know that he was unassuming, quiet, reticent, loving retirement rather than conspicuity, but I early learned that he had long been engaged in Sunday-school work and I soon found his intense interest in the young. You all know how, in works of charity and general benevolence, he always occupied a large sphere, not often appearing before the public, in a quiet way pursuing the course that he felt called upon to work in. But there were some things about him that to me were very touching and tender—his gentleness, his affection. I think the general impression about Mr. Ropes was that he was a serious man, and so he was, constitutionally serious, but a man of purposes, a man of convictions, always retaining them and living up to them as almost no man beside that I ever knew who occupied so largely business relations in the community.

His chief enjoyment was in the quiet works of love and charity to the young and to the poor. There is present to-day with us in this room a gentleman associated with him in a mission school, I think for more than twenty years ; and again and again I have heard our

dear friend speak of his labors there, the comfort which he took in them, the joy he had while engaged in those labors, so patiently, so perseveringly, during that long period of years; and he has told me, too, with simplicity and with tears in his eyes, some of the results of those labors, those long ago labored with by him coming and telling him what he had done for them. Some of the cases were intensely interesting, and there was great joy expressed by him in these fruits. I have heard him speak of some of them in the social meeting, for his place was almost always filled there.

We have to-day, all of us, a sense of loss in regard to his passing away. I do not feel that we have lost Mr. Ropes. He has ceased from his labors, but his works are to follow him. He has left, upon your heart and mine, an impression that shall not readily be effaced, and which is to tell upon us in the days to come. I question whether his life shall not have a deeper impression now that he has passed onward and upward than it ever had here. I say I do not think we have lost Mr. Ropes. I do not think our Heavenly Father takes from us individuals or influences that are so pleasant and profitable to us unless in their removal he means that they shall be worth more to us than if the persons from whom these influences emanated were present with us here. We have not lost those whom we talk about losing. Does God annihilate our title to those he takes from us? Are not those with whom we are associated in sweet Christian friendships, are they not to be ours still when they have passed on from us? To me it is a comfort to hope that in some way, I cannot tell how, I am not curious to know, but I have the firmest conviction

that those who have been taken out of my heart here are worth more to me where they are than if they had remained with me. I have felt through all my day that my mother's prayers and life here, and life and prayers beyond, were a daily benediction to me; and so our dear friend, whose form lies sleeping in this house to-day, will not forget you and me. He will not forget these friends with whom he was so intimately associated in works of benevolence. His counsels, his life, his uprightness, his reliability, what was there that you would desire in any man that you did not find in him. I think that as the life of Mr. Ropes becomes more generally known—I mean his private life, his social life, the work that he did so quietly and unobtrusively—there are many men in Brooklyn, in its different churches, who will be affected by the story, and who will be inspired by the influence that shall come to them through such a life, and the hope of the good that they may, and he did, accomplish for those who so much needed their care. There are thousands and tens of thousands of young men and young women and little children in our city who need the help of our merchant princes in mission schools and in Sabbath-schools, and the life and example of Reuben Ropes ought to be influential upon us all. I am sure I never shall forget it. I loved him tenderly. I shall love on, for I never shall forget him, and I pray God that from these services there shall go forth upon hearts here to-day, and upon other hearts, influences that shall lead men to say: "I want to live the life that he did." He did not study his own comfort and convenience; at great inconvenience to himself he went to his work often, and so it is your privilege and mine to do.

MR. HALL: The hymn which is now to be sung is sung by the special request of those who are nearest and dearest to Mr. Ropes. It was his favorite, and it expresses most deeply and truly his attitude to God.

Singing.

"When I survey the wondrous cross,
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And poor contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord! that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all."

MR. HALL: The death of this honored and beloved friend has occurred at a season of the year when many of our fellow citizens are absent from Brooklyn. But we are certain that from many parts of the country hearts are turning toward this service with affection and tenderness, and we who are personally here are compassed about with a cloud of unseen witnesses in spiritual sympathy with us. For we are called upon to-day to speak the last farewell of earth over one whose long life among us has been lived in the sunlight of truth and

along the royal highway of gentleness, kindness and peace. It is but a few weeks since a great assembly gathered at the burial of Mr. Ripley Ropes, who so soon followed to the grave his beloved brother Charles, of Salem. To-day we bid farewell to the last of this triad of kindred spirits. The brotherhood is once more complete. Hand grasps hand in the new fellowship of Paradise. The extraordinary intimacy of this brotherhood on earth may well be recorded. The two who lived in Brooklyn were daily companions, and for fifty years Mr. Reuben Ropes wrote the daily letter to his brother Charles. It was not to be expected that he could long remain on earth after his brothers had left it. We must surely rejoice that once again, and so soon, they are met together. It is but the most calm and moderate expression of the truth, to speak of the life of Mr. Reuben Ropes as a beautiful and blessed life. A great metropolitan journal, whose editor well knew whereof he spoke, has said of Mr. Ropes: "He leaves with all who knew him a priceless memory, fadeless as the eternal years." It is, indeed, true. There are those to-day who rise up in his own household, in the church of which he had long been a member and an office-bearer, in the associations and societies of philanthropy and Christian effort with which he had been identified, in the suffering homes of the poor, and bless God for his kind, true, wise and faithful life. He possessed a delightful blending of those qualities which produce strength, and of those which inspire love. The same journal to which I have alluded says most truthfully and beautifully of him: "He was in many respects as simple-hearted as a child, but he was firm and unswerving in his

devotion to truth and duty, and was always ready to stand by the right at whatever sacrifice of present ease and comfort." It is, indeed, inspiring to behold how God wrought in this dear friend by his Holy Spirit the symmetry of Christian character. To Mr. Ropes, life had but one centre, and that the "wondrous cross" of Jesus Christ. The hymn which has just been sung, "When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died," was to him a complete expression of his attitude toward God. He felt the amazing wealth of divine love, and that it demanded "his soul, his life, his all." He freely yielded himself to that demand, and in the various departments of a broad and useful life, he endeavored to "live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved him and gave himself for him." In his business career he carried out this conception of living, by steadfast and stainless honor in his dealings with men. In his church life none knew as well as the older members of Plymouth Church who are present to-day, the fidelity, the devotion, the purity of his long career as a member and office-bearer in that church, and as a friend and counselor of the illustrious pastor of that church, whose name is forever identified with its history. In the Sunday-school, as has been so touchingly remarked by Mr. Halliday, his labors were faithfully given for many years. In the old Warren street mission in South Brooklyn he watched as a father over a class of boys, whom he trained from boyhood to manhood, and from whom he did not separate himself until he had established each one in business and had presented each one with a bank account wherewith to begin the serious battle of life. The life of Mr. Ropes as a phil-

anthropist is something we all know and love to remember. With some of our great hospitals he had long been connected, but to many of us he is most inseparably linked with two great charities—the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, and the Seamen's Friend Society. His love for these works, his careful, willing consecration of time, thought and money to their advancement, his genial, earnest way of directing their affairs from the president's chair—these are memories not soon to be forgotten. But the sweetness of his life was chiefly reserved for his own home, of which it may, indeed, be said that both of his children who came after him, and of his brothers and parents before him, he was the stay and support, the beginning and the ending of the home life. It was there as husband, father, host and friend, his whole nature beamed forth with gentle and loving radiance. Submissive in sorrow, cheerful and strong, everywhere the memory of his whole life will, indeed, remain to comfort his children. I hold in my hand the little volume from which he loved to read each morning at family prayer. How suggestive and how sweet are those lines which he read on the 7th of July, the last morning when he was able to conduct family worship:

And after He had come to hide
Our lambs upon the other side,
We know our Shepherd and our Guide.

And thus by ways not understood
Out of each dark vicissitude
God brings us compensation good.

For faith is perfected by tears
And souls renew their youthful years
And love looks into Heaven thro' tears.

The departure of this beautiful life from our community involves us in the consciousness of severe and permanent loss. We feel that a strong and polished pillar has been taken down. We mourn that we shall see no more on our streets and in our assemblies this resolute, honest, beaming, tender countenance. But surely his death must also give impulse to all that is noblest in those of us who remain. He has fought the good fight, he has finished his course, but we, my brethren, we remain "in this world of sin and pain." Can we not take up his work and carry it forward, going, as he loved to go, to minister to the poor, to the discouraged, to the hospital patients, to the tempted sailor? Yes, we may carry forward his work if life has for us the same centre it had for him "the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died." Let us pray.

O God, our Heavenly Father, who has taught us by thy Holy Spirit, when we gather at the grave of Christian friends, to say, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord," give us grace at this time, as we are met together in sorrow, to mourn the loss which this household and which this community has sustained in the death of thy dear servant, from our hearts to thank thee that thou didst give in this house and in this city a life so strong and so true as the life of him who has now received his crown. We bless Thee, O our Heavenly Father, for the grace and wisdom, for the love and gentleness, for the daily sacrifice and patience with which Thou didst endow this, Thy servant, for the ministry and battle of his life. We give Thee thanks that Thou didst early lead him to a knowledge of the Truth as it is in Jesus; and

that Thou didst enable him, under the influences which come from the Cross of Christ, to desire and accomplish the best that was set before him. We bless Thee for the multiplicity of those affections which went forth from his heart towards all things good and tender. We bless Thee for the fidelity with which through Thee he was enabled to discharge the various duties of his home life, and the trusts of his more public career, and we thank Thee, as we gather to-day around his silent form, and realize that the last of the three brothers has gone to his rest, we thank Thee that we may cheerfully think of him in his present joy and blessedness, united with so many dear ones who have preceded him into the better country, and at last, going forward upon the threshold of the new life with a spirit renewed and kindled, to take up the new missions of Paradise, and fulfill the wider will of God.

We thank Thee for the faithful example of brotherly affection set by Thy servant towards his brothers who are now gathered with him in that rest. And now our prayer goes forth for all the members of this family, as they are severally before Thee this day. We pray especially for the children of this dear friend, from whom has been taken so sweet and gentle, so true and fair a parent. We bless Thee for the ineffaceable memories of peace and thankfulness that will ever be in this home as long as they remain in it, and will ever connect themselves with the name of their father withersoever they may go, and we pray that Thou wilt comfort them by the sweetness of the past to endure whatever sorrows may enshroud the future. We pray for these other kindred and friends who are gathered here this day; more especially we pray for the

widow of the dear brother who did so shortly precede this, our friend, into the realm of light, and as her grief is renewed this day, gathered here so speedily in the house of mourning, we also pray that her faith may be renewed and that she may be lifted up above the cloud of sorrow and distress to hold fellowship by faith with Christ, and with those who are at rest in Him. We pray for all these kinsfolk, and all these friends and acquaintances of these many years gathered here this day. We beseech Thee that the example and influence of this holy and gentle life may take deep hold upon these hearts, and that an impulse which shall not die away may be administered to all those here present to go forth holding our gifts and opportunities as the endowments of God, for which we must and would render account at last of a faithful stewardship. Hear us, O our Lord, in these our prayers. Raise up, we beseech Thee, faithful men in all the societies with which our brother was identified, who may carry forward his work, and consummate his hopes, and grant that at last, when the harvesting is gathered in, and when we meet before Thy Throne, we may join our greetings and our thanksgiving with him, and with those who are kindred spirits with his own, giving praise unto Him that sitteth upon the Throne, and unto the Lamb, forever and forever, for all the impulses of life that have been kindled at the Cross, and satisfied in the Cross.

And unto the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be glory, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Singing.

"Lead, kindly Light! amid the encircling gloom,
Lead thou me on;
The night is dark, and I am far from home,
Lead thou me on;
Keep thou my feet, I do not ask to see
The distant scene; one step enough for me.

I was not ever thus, nor prayed that thou
Shouldst lead me on;
I loved to choose and see my path; but now
Lead thou me on:
I loved the garish day and spite of fears,
Pride ruled my will. Remember not past
years,

So long thy power has blessed me, sure it still
Will lead me on
O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
The night is gone;
And with the morn those angel faces smile
Which I have loved long since, and lost
awhile!"

**Resolutions adopted by the Association for
Improving the Condition of the Poor.**

A special meeting of the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor was held after the announcement of Mr. Ropes' death at the quarters of that organization on Livingston Street.

The purpose of the meeting was to allow the members of the association an opportunity to express their sentiments regarding the loss sustained by them, individually and collectively, in the death of Reuben W. Ropes, who for twenty-six years was president of the association.

The chair in which the deceased gentleman used to sit stood at the head of the room, draped in black and having a portrait of its former occupant affixed. Vice-President Gen. C. T. Christensen presided, and David M. Stone was the first to speak after the chairman had made a few introductory remarks.

Mr. Stone said: "I find it impossible to say much in eulogy of one who was always so upright, intelligent, sagacious, and whose integrity was unspotted by a single stain. In social life he was kind, tender, true, and no man ever found in others a truer friend than he. I venture to offer the following minute to the consideration of the meeting:

"Reuben W. Ropes, an active member of this Board for more than thirty-four years, and the president of this association for upwards of a quarter of a century, has been called from his earthly labors to the home and the reward that await the faithful. He needs no eulogy from us, for his whole life was radiant with that light whose lustre can borrow no gilding from human speech. With singleness of purpose, with untiring devotion, with a tenderness of manner born of a loving sympathy for every form of suffering and want, he gave the best part of a long life to the service of his fellow-men. No appeal for help fell unheeded on his ear; but his rare judgment distinguished at once between the cry of the needy and the plea of the common mendicant, and under his directing hand the charities from our treasury were wisely bestowed.

"In business life he was sagacious, enterprising, conservative and irreproachable, without a stain

upon his good name from boyhood to the closing hour. He stood among his fellow citizens as an uncompromising advocate of righteousness, and, although he sought no prominence for himself, he was a tower of strength in the day of trial, from his great steadfastness of purpose and his unwavering faith in the triumph of truth and justice.

"This is the victory that overcomes the world; and the bright example of such a life will never fade with the lapse of years. His is a priceless memory for us who have labored at his side, for those who have shared in his bounty and been helped and comforted by his loving ministry, and for all who have been strengthened in right-doing by his uprightness of life. To his family it is an imperishable inheritance that will remain with them as an heirloom to the latest generation.

"We enter this minute of record as our grateful tribute to his worth, and in testimony of his unselfish labors for so many years in behalf of this association. And we transmit an engrossed copy to his afflicted household, with the warmest expressions of our loving sympathy for them in this hour of our common sorrow."

The minute was adopted without further remark.

General Superintendent Albert A. Day, after referring to his relations with Mr. Ropes, read the following on behalf of the employes of the association:

"We, the undersigned, ask to be permitted to join in the common expressions of sorrow for the loss of our late president, Reuben W. Ropes.

"For many years we have been accustomed to see his face almost daily during the busy season; and have relied upon his directions and advice. On his removal from this sphere of philanthropic usefulness, this association sustains the loss of a wise counselor and a liberal supporter. We, as employes, lose a sincere friend, and the poor of this city are deprived of the active and kindly interest of a long-time benefactor. We tender our sorrowful condolences.

(Signed)

"ALBERT A. DAY.

"WALTER H. PERVIS.

"THOMAS MARTIN.

"EDMUND E. AVILA."

Gen. Christensen said that Mr. Ropes had more influence over him than any other man had ever possessed, with the possible exception of Henry Ward Beecher.

Resolutions Adopted by the Seamen's Friend Society and Published in the Sailor's Magazine.

Our Society has suffered a severe loss in the death of its president. Signs of the failure of his health have not been wanting for two years past, but the death of two brothers within a brief period was a blow which greatly weakened him, and left him unable at his advanced age to resist a stroke of paralysis. His funeral services were conducted at his late home in Brooklyn by Rev. C. C. Hall, D.D., and Rev. S. B. Halliday, both of whom passed upon his life most loving panegyrics, laying special stress on his quiet benevolence, christian integrity, Church and Sunday-school work, public spirit, and his affection for his kindred.

Mr. Ropes became known to the present editor of this magazine but little more than two years ago. In addition to the impressions recorded in the appended minute, he desires to note the enjoyment which Mr. Ropes felt in the meetings of the Board, his warm greetings to its members, and his tenderness and solemnity of spirit oftentimes in referring to its work. He talked and acted like a man who knew that his time was short, and that the shadow feared of man was darkening into death, "dark with excess of bright." When the editor served with him on a committee to procure a chaplain for the Sailors' Home, he was struck with his earnest desire to find for the place a man who would try to save souls; and when he was found he gave the chaplain a solemn charge to remember that he represented a society whose greatest desire was to save the souls of seamen. In his last interview with him Mr. Ropes remarked: "I am living on prayer."

He frequently visited the secretary's office, to keep the run of business, and to aid him with his best counsel. These visits were marked by a cordial friendliness, a courteous politeness, and a desire to be a real help to the Board's work, which makes his memory precious in the office.

We invoke the prayers of christian people that God may guide the Board of Trustees in the selection of his successor.

The following minute was adopted by a rising vote of the Board :

Mr. R. W. Ropes, President of the American Seamen's Friend Society, died at his home in Brooklyn, on July 30, 1890. In view of this event, the Trustees, in special session on July 31st, adopt the following minute :

Reuben W. Ropes was born of excellent stock in Salem, Mass., on July 16, 1813. With a common school education, good health and a careful moral training, he early began to make his own way in life. In 1845 he removed to New York City, and formed the shipping firm of R. W. Ropes & Co., the business of which became large and prosperous in the South American trade.

Having inherited the traits of thrift, energy, industry, perseverance and public spirit, he combined with these a spirit of kindness and philanthropy, of christian tenderness and love, and a longing for the triumph of right through the triumph of Christ and the reign of His kingdom on the earth.

He loved the church of his choice, and gave to it his constant presence and loyal support. Very strong in the love of his kindred, he was stronger still in feeling the kinship of christian believers and their oneness in Christ.

Clear in his knowledge of the true principles of moral action, and firm in his conviction of personal duty, he always expressed his views in terms of courtesy and kindness on all subjects in debate between himself and others.

He was simple and unaffected in manners, marked by a cheerful gravity, a genial dignity, a sympathetic spirit.

While Mr. Ropes' personal gifts to charities were numerous, wise, and frequently bestowed in secret, he was eminently useful in forming or seconding plans to preserve the self-respect of the poor who were forced to receive succor in distress.

At the time of his decease Mr. Ropes was President of the Brooklyn Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor; Vice-President of the Board of Managers of the Brooklyn Eye and Ear

Hospital; Vice-President of the Long Island College Hospital, and a Deacon in Plymouth Church.

On May 9, 1870, he became a Trustee of the American Seamen's Friend Society, and on May 11, 1885, he was elected its President. As such he was ever punctual, earnest, faithful, always manifesting a heart-deep interest in the saving of seamen. The Trustees tenderly recall his opening address at the annual meeting of the Society, and also his occasional addresses at the monthly meetings of the Board, showing his personal affection for its members, and his growing sense of the importance of its work. They thank God on every remembrance of him, for his fidelity to every trust, and especially for his devotion to the cause of the men of the sea. They invoke God's blessing on his family, and assure his bereaved household that his name will long be honored and revered in the American Seamen's Friend Society.

Resolved, That a copy of this minute be sent to the family of the deceased, that it be entered in the minutes of the Board, and be published in the *Sailors' Magazine*.

Resolved, That this Board attend the funeral services on August 1st.

Clipping from a Letter of one of the Officers of the Society.

"I had known Mr. Ropes for more than twenty years, and each year increased my affection and esteem for him. His large heart was filled with sympathy and consideration for all, especially for the poor and unfortunate, actuating him to a long and faithful service in their behalf. All who knew him have lost a friend, but memory cherishes his bright record and example. He has gone to his reward, and richly is entitled to the encomium 'That the world is better off for his having passed through it.'"

"Sincerely yours,

"SAMUEL ROWLAND."

Resolutions adopted by Eye and Ear Hospital.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Brooklyn Eye and Ear Hospital, held October 28, 1890, the following minute, presented by the Rev. Richard D. Storrs, D.D., was unanimously adopted :

The death of Mr. Reuben W. Ropes, which has occurred since the last meeting of this Board

of Directors, removes from the Eye and Ear Hospital one who had been warmly interested in it from a time even preceding its formal organization. He was present at the first meeting called to consider the practicability of such an organization, and was earnest and effective in urging that the institution be at once established. He became a director in it at the outset, and continued to be such until his death. For four years past he had been its vice-president. In the many meetings of the Board at which he was present, and at not a few of which he presided, his counsel was always marked by kindness, wisdom, and a courageous spirit, as well as by a zeal which never faltered for the largest welfare of the institution. He was liberal in gifts to it, prompt and faithful in the discharge of all duties committed to him in connection with it; eager to interest others in it and its work; and it was with a true gladness of heart that he saw and assisted its firm foundation, its timely enlargement, and the clear prospect now offered before it of enduring and expanded beneficence. On the list of the names of the early friends of the Eye and Ear Hospital—so many of which have now to be marked with stars—few are more prominent, none is more beloved, than that of Mr. Ropes.

Of his sincere and attractive personal character, his unswerving integrity, his unflinching kindness of spirit, his philanthropic devotion, and his governing christian faith, others have spoken justly and fully, and it is not needful for us to repeat their words. But we cannot forbear to add our testimony to that of all whose privilege it has been to be brought into close and frequent contact with Mr. Ropes to the impression universally made by him—of one keenly sympathetic with human suffering and want, eagerly desirous to minister to these, in any way and to any extent open to him, in whom the ardor for usefulness was a beautiful passion, whose highest aim in life was to follow and to honor that Divine Master who "went about doing good." In the business circles in which he moved he is missed and mourned. From all his many offices of trust and responsibility his death withdraws one whose presence was always welcome, who was ever ready to devise and assist the best plans. In the

church and the home bereaved by his departure, his influence will be cherished and his memory be sacred. But it is a fact to be remembered to his large honor that he will be missed, with a regretful affection, hardly elsewhere surpassed, in the homes of the poor, by the hungry whom he fed and the naked whom he clothed, by the sad whom he comforted and by the sick to whom he sent remedies and relief, by the desponding to whom he gave cheer, by the dull of hearing, the dim of sight, to whom he here ministered with affectionate assiduity, in the temper of the Lord.

It is with unfeigned and affectionate personal sadness that those heretofore associated with him in this Board of Directors record his death and direct this minute commemorative of him to be entered on their records, and a copy of it to be sent to the family of Mr. Ropes.

CORNELIUS D. WOOD,
President.
F. H. COTTON,
Secretary.

Resolutions adopted by the Board of Regents of the Long Island College Hospital.

At a regular meeting of the Board of Regents of the Long Island College Hospital, held in the rooms of the Institution on the 3d day of November, 1890, Mr. Robert H. Riley, on behalf of the committee appointed at the special meeting held August 19, 1890, presented the following resolutions:

The Regents of this Institution, desiring to express their deep regret on account of the loss of their friend and associate, Reuben W. Ropes, it is on motion

Resolved, That Mr. Ropes' valuable and faithful services as a regent and vice-president of this Institution for nearly thirty years were performed with the same conscientiousness that marked his performance of every other duty, while his uniformly kind, considerate and courteous conduct endeared him to his associates in no ordinary degree.

Resolved, That the above resolution be entered on the minutes and a copy of the same be pre-

sented to his family, to whom we tender our sincere sympathy.

The resolutions were adopted.

THOS. H. RODMAN,

President.

W. J. OSBORNE,

Secretary.

**Resolutions adopted by Board of Deacons,
Plymouth Church.**

To the Children of Reuben W. Ropes :

At the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Deacons of Plymouth Church, October 30, 1890, the following resolution was adopted unanimously :

On the 30th of July last, after a brief illness, and in the seventy-eighth year of his age, Reuben W. Ropes, for more than thirty-eight years a member of this church, passed away to his heavenly home.

During these many years this beloved brother was so closely identified with our church, and took such a prominent part in its activities—especially those connected with the Board of Deacons, of which he was almost continually a member—that it is fitting that we should put on record our testimony of his great worth ; of the fidelity, single-mindedness, and evenness and sweetness of disposition with which he took hold of and performed every duty devolving upon him.

We know that he was a model husband and father, an upright and honored merchant, a faithful, public-spirited citizen ; and, take him all in all, a thorough christian gentleman ; and, while we deeply deplore our loss, and feel sincere sympathy with his dear children in their bereavement, we rejoice that in the fulness of years so good a man has gone to his well-earned heavenly reward, spared a lingering sickness, and leaving behind him such a shining example for young and old to follow. His genial, gentle presence shall be missed so long as any remain who had the happiness of knowing him personally.

Resolved, That this tribute be spread upon our minutes, and a copy sent to his children.

C. T. CHRISTENSEN,
Secretary.

Extract from Sermon by Dr. Lyman Abbott.

"The son of a Puritan comes to Brooklyn, enters here into trade, brings to his business a wise judgment and a sterling integrity. He consecrates that same judgment, that sagacity, that skill which builds up little by little by productive and useful industry his own fortune, he consecrates it to the service of others. He takes hold of an almost bankrupt and paralyzed institution for charity, and in twenty-five years has not only put it upon its feet, but has so equipped and enriched it as to make it one of the strong and established charities of our city. He brings the same judgment and business sagacity into the affairs of the church, into the administration of its charities and of its secular affairs. He is wise in counsel, he is helpful in a thousand ways. He enters into direct, personal, christian work, and around his ministry there grows up a chapel that itself becomes in time almost another church. In all this life he lives the life of a peacemaker, and, wherever he goes, from his sweet presence there distils a benediction of peace. Who can tell what is the service which is rendered to a great city by such a life as this, that is like a ray of Heaven's own sunlight, breaking through the clouds of smoke and dust that rise from the city, a ray of sunlight that bears perpetual witness to the blue sky and the bright sun above."

Who can tell what Plymouth Church owes, through the services rendered in the Warren Street Mission, to Reuben W. Ropes ?

**Paper read before the New England
Society of Brooklyn.**

Reuben W. Ropes, who died on the 30th of July, 1890, was the eldest and last surviving of five sons of Captain Benjamin G. Ropes, of Salem, Mass., two of whom—Charles Ropes, of Salem, and Ripley Ropes, of this city—have died within the present year, the former in March, the latter in May. The commencement of Mr. Ropes' fatal illness was a stroke of paralysis at Saratoga, about three weeks before his death. From this place, whither he had gone with his family to pass the summer months, he was removed to his

home in the city, Mr. Depew placing his own special car at the service of the family, and every care being taken to make the journey a quiet one. On his arrival at his residence, 28 Remsen street, Mr. Ropes was, however, unconscious, and remained in that condition until he died, several hours afterwards.

Reuben W. Ropes was born in Salem, on the 16th of July, 1813, and came of a very old English family, his ancestors having settled in Salem in 1632. The family name was originally Roper, two brothers of that name being among the Pilgrim Fathers who arrived in the *Mayflower*, and one of these was Captain Ropes' ancestor.

Captain B. C. G. Ropes fought at Lundy's Lane, in Canada, against the British, in the war of 1812.

Mr. Ropes' father was a shipping merchant of note in Salem, and Reuben received his education in the schools of his native town, afterwards entering upon the business pursuits in which his father was engaged. In 1830 he formed the shipping firm of R. W. Ropes & Co., in which his brothers were associated with him, the firm operating a line of packet ships between Salem, Philadelphia and Baltimore, and having extensive business relations with South American firms, one of the brothers (Henry Ropes) being stationed at Buenos Ayres to look after the interests of the firm in those parts. In 1835 the firm removed to New York, where it has since done a constantly increasing business in the building formerly known as the old colonial stage-house, at 73 Pearl street. Though an ardent Republican, Mr. Ropes never took any active part in politics. His life, and especially since his retirement from active business ten years ago, has been largely devoted to charitable work. Henry Ward Beecher said of Mr. Ropes that he had not in his congregation a man with a more beautiful character. He was a devoted parent, loving his home as few men do, and was united by the strongest ties of affection to his brother, Ripley Ropes, a day rarely passing when one of the brothers did not visit the other in friendly consultation. They shared each other's anxieties and pleasures.

Mr. Ropes was of a modest and retiring disposition, and his many acts of charity were done without ostentation. He supported many poor families through periods of distress or particular crises in their affairs, often going among the poor and searching out the cases where his sympathy and money would bring relief.

His favorite idea was to aid the poor without degrading them. He opposed, therefore, the granting of money for outdoor public charities, while he thoroughly believed in the good work possible of accomplishment through the various institutions especially organized to aid those suffering from poverty. Mr. Ropes was one of the founders of the Brooklyn Eye and Ear Hospital, vice-president of the Long Island College Hospital, president of the Seamen's Friend Society, and president of the Society for Improving the Condition of the Poor—and in all of these capacities he proved himself a careful man of business, a wise counselor and a valuable executive force.

Mr. Ropes leaves two sons and one married daughter, his wife having died five years ago. The funeral was held at three o'clock, on August 1st, at Mr. Ropes' late residence, 28 Remsen street, Rev. Charles Cuthbert Hall conducting the services. The body was interred in Salem, in the family burial plot.

WILLARD BARTLETT, *President,*
Judge of the Supreme Court, Brooklyn.

From Journal of Commerce.

Reuben W. Ropes has entered into rest. Only a few months ago we had a notice of the passing away of his brother at Salem, Mass., and later still of the sudden decease of Ripley Ropes, who was a younger brother and one of the most prominent citizens of Brooklyn. The loss of his two brothers in such quick succession was a great blow to the survivor, and he drooped under it, and walked each day with an ever-failing step, like one wearied of earth. He was taken a few weeks ago to Saratoga by the advice of his physicians, but its celebrated waters were powerless to revive the drooping spirit. On the 14th inst. he was stricken with paralysis upon his left side, and as there was but little hope of his recovery

he desired to return to his home. On Tuesday evening he left Saratoga in a special car of the New York Central Railroad, chartered for that purpose, and was taken from Forty-second street to Brooklyn in a ferry-boat. He became unconscious before he reached his dwelling, and passed away at 3:45 o'clock on the morning of Wednesday the 30th inst. His funeral will be attended at three o'clock on the afternoon of Friday.

Mr. Ropes was born in Salem, Mass., on July 16, 1813. His education and early training were such as commonly fell to the lot of New England boys in the first quarter of the century. He and his brothers were compelled early in life to begin the work of making their own way in the world. Between them there always existed a bond of sympathy and union much closer and firmer than is commonly found even in connection with such close ties of kinship; and it is remembered with pleasure by their friends, that not a day was allowed to pass but each wrote a letter to any absent member of the three. For a few years during early manhood they were engaged in business together in Salem as dealers in flour and grain. Deceased removed to this city in 1845, and with his brother Ripley formed the firm of R. W. Ropes & Co., which has ever since been prominent in the South American trade. Since 1856 the firm has occupied the premises at No. 73 Pearl street. Deceased leaves two sons, E. W. and William Ropes, and one daughter, Mrs. G. R. Hallett Thorn. After the funeral services at No. 28 Remsen street, Brooklyn, on Friday afternoon, the remains will be taken to Salem for burial.

Mr. Ropes has been for many years president of the Brooklyn Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, and gave a large amount of time to the good work of that most excellent organization. He was a member of Plymouth Church, and was active in every form of christian charity. He was in many respects as simple-hearted as a child, but he was firm and unwavering in his devotion to truth and duty, and was always ready to stand by the right at whatever sacrifice of present ease and comfort. His friendships were strong, and he linked himself to those who knew him best with hooks of steel.

His wife passed on before him several years ago. His married daughter made his home a delightful retreat from the outside world, and his sons grew up to manhood with characters well fitted to gladden a parent's heart. He leaves with all who knew him a priceless memory, fadeless as the eternal years.

DAVID M. STONE,
Editor.

From the New York Times.

Reuben W. Ropes, one of New York's oldest and best-known shipping merchants, and a man conspicuously known for the good he has done in the world, died early yesterday morning, of paralysis, at his home, 28 Remsen street, Brooklyn. A little over three weeks ago Mr. Ropes, who was spending the summer with his family at Saratoga, was stricken with paralysis. It was not at first believed that the stroke was a particularly severe one, and for a time it was thought that Mr. Ropes, although a very old man, would survive it. But a few days ago his condition became very much worse, and the physicians said that the days of the stricken man were numbered. It had always been his oft-expressed wish that when his time came he should die in his own home, and it was, therefore, decided by his children to bring him back to Brooklyn. A special car was obtained, and the dying man reached his home at 8 o'clock Tuesday evening. Drs. Speir, Weir and Riggs, were there to attend him, but their efforts were futile, and their patient breathed his last at 3:45 o'clock yesterday morning. His death was very peaceful.

Mr. Ropes came of one of the oldest families in America—an English family which settled in Salem, Mass., in 1632. He was born in that quaint old town on July 16, 1813, his seventy-seventh birthday having been celebrated two weeks ago yesterday with some amount of ceremony. His father was Capt. Benjamin Ropes, who was in business in Salem as a shipping merchant. Reuben Ropes received his education in the schools of his native town, and, coming of age, he entered into the business in which his father had been engaged. In 1830 he founded the firm

of R. W. Ropes & Co., shipping merchants, made up of his brothers and himself, and they operated a packet line of vessels between Salem, Philadelphia and Baltimore. They also had extensive business relations with firms in South America, and one member of the firm, Henry Ropes, was for a long time stationed at Buenos Ayres, to look after the firm's interests in the South.

In 1835 the firm was removed to New York, where, however, it was and has always since been known as the firm of R. W. Ropes, the "Co.," having been dropped, although Mr. Ropes' brothers remained as members of it. Quarters were secured in what in the colonial days was the stage-house, at 73 Pearl street. There the firm has done a lucrative and constantly increasing business ever since. Reuben Ropes was the sole surviving original member, both of his brothers, Ripley and Charles, having died within the present year.

Although an ardent Republican, Mr. Ropes never took any active part in political life. He was a very charitable man, doing good in an unostentatious way whenever he had the opportunity, and hundreds of people in distress were relieved of their necessities by his generous aid.

He was one of the founders of the Brooklyn Eye and Ear Hospital, was vice-president of the Long Island College Hospital, president of the Seamen's Friend Society, and president of the Society for Improving the Condition of the Poor.

Mr. Ropes' wife died five years ago. The family which survives him consists of two sons and one married daughter. Private funeral services will be held at the Remsen street house tomorrow afternoon, and that night the body will be taken to Salem for interment in the family plot in the cemetery there.

From the New York Tribune.

Reuben W. Ropes died yesterday afternoon at his home, No. 28 Remsen street, Brooklyn, at the age of seventy-seven. He was a brother of the late Ripley Ropes, of Brooklyn, and the late Charles A. Ropes, of Salem, Mass. Mr. Ropes was born in Salem, and at the age of twenty-two removed to Brooklyn with his brother Ripley.

They embarked in South American trade in wool and hides and were extremely successful. When Mr. Beecher began preaching in Brooklyn, in 1847, Mr. Ropes was greatly impressed by him and joined Plymouth Church, with which he remained connected until his death. He was a trustee and a deacon and one of the most constant attendants upon church services. Since the death of his wife, five years ago, his health had been enfeebled, and the repeated shocks, caused by the death of his brother Charles, in March, and of his brother Ripley, in May, further shattered his health. He went to Saratoga a fortnight ago, but was prostrated last week by an attack of paralysis. He recovered sufficiently to be removed to his home on Tuesday, but the journey was too much for him, and he died the following morning at 3:45.

Mr. Ropes devoted much time and money to charitable work. For the last twenty-eight years he was president of the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor. He was also vice-president of the Long Island College Hospital, vice-president of the Eye and Ear Hospital, and president of the Seaman's Friend Society, of New York. He was one of the most generous givers in Brooklyn, but his benefactors were unknown to the public. He left a large fortune. The surviving family consists of two sons and one daughter.

The funeral will take place at No. 28 Remsen street, Brooklyn, to-morrow, at 3 p. m. In the absence of Dr. Abbott, Dr. Charles Cuthbert Hall, of the First Presbyterian Church, will conduct the services. The burial will be in Salem, Mass.

From the Brooklyn Eagle.

The death yesterday of Reuben W. Ropes takes from the world a man distinguished wherever he was known for his goodness of heart, and robs Brooklyn of one of its best known and highly esteemed citizens. Mr. Ropes' fatal illness dates back to his prostration three weeks ago, at Saratoga, by a stroke of paralysis. His family were with him at the time, they having gone to the Springs to pass the summer months. It was not at first believed that the stroke was

sufficiently severe to threaten Mr. Ropes' life, and he himself was sanguine up to the last moment of consciousness that he would survive it. Dr. Riggs, of this city, was with him, and Dr. Reynolds, of Saratoga, was called in. The family, through Dr. Riggs, were also in daily communication with Dr. S. Fleet Spier, of this city. The physicians decided in a few days that their patient's condition was very critical. The cerebral hemorrhage continued, and the family was notified that Mr. Ropes was past the hope of medical aid. Since his wife's death away from their home, it had been his oft-expressed wish that he might not share her fate in this respect. It, therefore, shows how perfectly he misinterpreted the signs of his approaching demise that he wished, while he continued ill, to remain at Saratoga. Through the courtesy of Mr. Depew his own special car was placed at the family's disposal Tuesday night, to convey the dying man to his home. An annex ferry-boat was chartered to convey him from the railroad terminus to this city, and every care was taken to make the journey a quiet one. Dr. Spier met the family on their arrival here at 8 o'clock. Mr. Ropes was unconscious, and remained in that condition until he died in his room, 28 Remsen street, at 3:45 o'clock yesterday morning.

It is a tragic circumstance that within five months the three brothers, all that remained of the five sons of Captain Benjamin Ropes, have died. Charles Ropes, of Salem, Mass., dying in March, and Ripley Ropes, of this city, in May. Reuben Ropes was the oldest of the five sons and two daughters of Captain Ropes, and was born in Salem on July 16, 1813. He was the last of the seven to die. The three brothers that outlived the others by some years were united by the strongest ties of brotherly affection. A day never passed that Ripley Ropes and his brother Reuben did not visit one another in friendly consultation. They shared each other's anxieties and pleasures. A further remarkable fact is that Reuben Ropes and his brother Charles for fifty years corresponded every day by letter with each other. It was but natural, therefore, that the death of the two brothers should have strongly affected Reuben Ropes, and his fatal illness is,

in part at least, attributable to his grief after the death of his distinguished brother in this city. Mr. Ropes came of a very old English family which settled in Salem in 1632. His father was a shipping merchant of note in Salem. Reuben received his education in the schools of his native town, and entered upon the business pursuits in which his father was engaged. In 1830 he formed the mercantile shipping firm of R. W. Ropes & Co., in which his brothers were associated with him. The firm operated a packet line of vessels between Salem, Philadelphia and Baltimore, and had extensive business relations with South American firms, and one of the brothers, Henry Ropes, was stationed in Buenos Ayres, to look after the firm's interests in the Southern lands. Since 1835, when the firm removed to New York, it has been known simply as R. W. Ropes, though the brothers remained associated in it. Quarters were secured in what was the old colonial stage-house, at 73 Pearl street, where ever since the firm has done a lucrative and constantly increasing business. Though an ardent Republican, Reuben Ropes never took any active part in politics. His life, and especially since his retirement from active business ten years ago, has been largely devoted to charitable work. Henry Ward Beecher said of Mr. Ropes that he had not in his congregation a man with a more beautiful character. He was a devoted parent and loved his home as few men do. He was of a modest and retiring disposition, and his many acts of charity were done without ostentation. He supported many poor families through periods of distress or particular crises in their affairs, and never tired of going himself among the poor, and searching out the cases on which his sympathy and money would bring relief. His idea was to aid the poor without degrading them. He opposed, therefore, the granting of money for outdoor public charities, while he faithfully believed in the good work possible to be accomplished through the various institutions that were especially organized to aid those suffering from poverty. He was one of the founders of the Brooklyn Eye and Ear Hospital, was vice-president of the Long Island College Hospital, president of the Seaman's Friend Society, and president

of the Society for Improving the Condition of the Poor.

Mr. Ropes leaves two sons, E. W. Ropes and William Ropes, and one married daughter, Mrs. G. R. H. Thorn. Mr. Ropes' wife died five years ago. Funeral services will be held at the Remsen street house to-morrow, at 3 P.M. In the absence of Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott in Europe, Rev. Dr. Cuthbert Hall will officiate, and the pall bearers will be as follows: A. A. Low, General C. T. Christensen, James Ross Curren, Cornelius D. Wood, ex-County Treasurer Wheelock, A. Augustus Low, David M. Stone, J. A. Taft, James W. Elwell, George T. Stockwell, S. V. White and Alexander M. White. The burial will be at Salem.

From the Brooklyn Eagle.

The funeral services over the remains of the late Reuben W. Ropes were held at 3 o'clock this afternoon at his late residence, 28 Remsen street. The large parlors and hall were completely filled with the friends and relatives of the dead merchant and philanthropist. Among those present were many of the best known professional and business men in this city and New York. Among the immediate relatives were the family of the late Ripley Ropes, of this city, and the family of the late Charles Ropes, of Silem, Benjamin Ropes and his family, from Port Chester, and W. K. Thorn and his family, from New York. The pall bearers were Abiel A. Low, General C. T. Christensen, James Ross Curren, Cornelius D. Wood, ex-County Treasurer Wheelock, David M. Stone, J. A. Taft, James W. Elwell, George T. Stockwell, George Ripley, S. V. White, Alexander M. White and A. Augustus Low. The charitable societies with which Mr. Ropes was connected were largely represented in the attendance. Nearly all of them sent handsome floral tributes. The Society for Improving the Condition of the Poor, and others with which he was most prominently identified, also noticed Mr. Ropes' death to-day by covering their buildings with mourning cloth.

The mortal emblems about the casket at the house to-day were profuse and beautiful, and

besides those contributed by the family and the societies, included very many bouquets from personal friends and business associates of Mr. Ropes. A large bunch of fifty roses hung at the side of the entrance door, and another large bunch of lilies was reserved to be placed on the grave at Salem.

Hymn Sung at the Services at Salem, Mass.

Abide with me.

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;

The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.

When other helpers fail, and comforts flee;

Help of the helpless, O, abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes,
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the
skies;

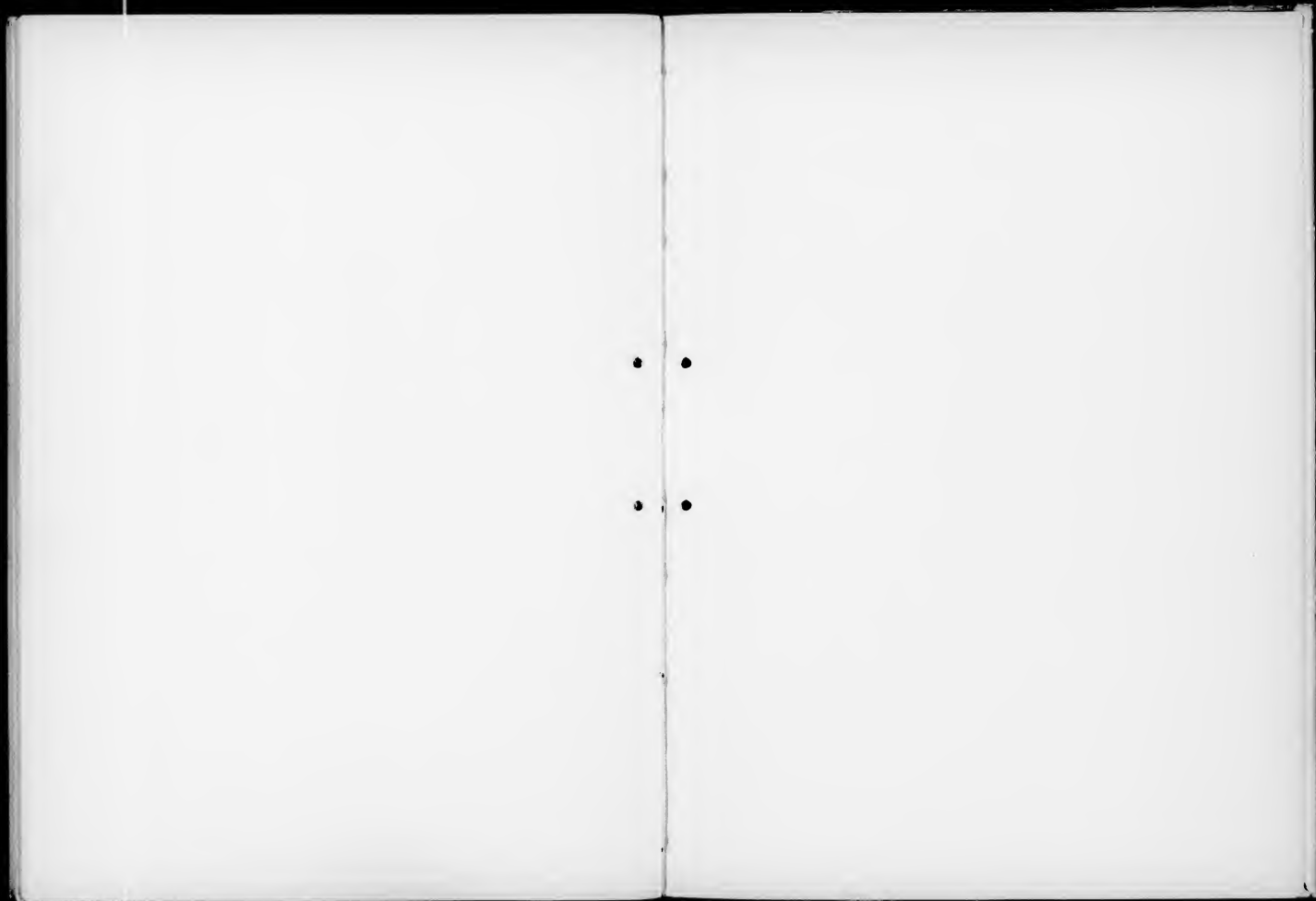
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain
shadows flee;

In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Amen.

"His children arise up and call him blessed."

Proverbs 31:28.





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